

Report of the Missouri Business Education Roundtable
Presented to Gov. Bob Holden
July 30, 2003
Synopsis of Recommendations

Teachers as Professionals:

Teacher recruitment and retention is a challenge and recent data on the teaching profession indicates declining trends in the number of individuals entering the field. These challenges can be met by working in cooperation with organizations representing educators, businesses, and supportive community groups.

- Develop a more proactive teacher recruitment strategy and strengthen teacher retention policies
- Improve teacher preparedness
- Reinforce the perception of teaching as a profession

Improving the School Environment:

One of the most important ways to positively influence the school environment is to ensure that children arrive at school prepared to learn. That preparation requires top quality pre-kindergarten programs and parental involvement in the education of children. Businesses in each of the state's 524 school districts have the ability to provide support for schools in their community and these recommendations should encourage a stronger partnership.

- Provide preschool children with age appropriate development activities to enable them to enter kindergarten prepared to learn
- Engage parents and communities in educational outcomes of children
- Develop business and community education partnerships
- Continuous improvement in school performance

Funding Issues in Education:

The Roundtable observed that Missourians, like all Americans, sharply divide responsibility for providing early education between the child's parents and society. Parents are almost completely responsible for any education that children receive before kindergarten but society is responsible for the cost of the child's primary and secondary education. This duality contributes to a system where some children arrive at kindergarten unprepared for school and contributes to inequities in achievement with their peer thereafter. Missouri must make every effort to ensure an adequate and equitable funding system for children and young adults that will provide an efficient and effective method for youths to acquire at each level of knowledge and skills required to succeed at the next level.

- Improve funding for Missouri education at all levels.

